IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Kenneth H. Grabstein, Dirk M Anderson,

June R. Eisenman, Victor P. Fung and

Charles Rauch

Docket No.:

2811-H

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Examiner:

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Serial No: 09/724,841

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendment before examining this application.

In the Specification

At page 1, please replace the paragraph at lines 5-8 ("This application is a continuation-inpart of . . . March 8, 1993.") with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/189,193, filed 09 November 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/725,969, filed 04 October 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,892,001, which is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 08/393,305, filed 22 February 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,574,138, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 08/233,606, filed 22 April 1994, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 08/031,399, filed 08 March 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,552,303.-

In the Claims

Please add the following claims (20-33).